

**MINUTES OF THE  
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Tuesday, October 9, 2001 - 2:00 p.m. - Room 129 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Matt Throckmorton, House Chair  
Sen. Dave L. Gladwell  
Sen. Paula F. Julander  
Sen. Carlene Walker  
Rep. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. Marda Dillree  
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow  
Ms. Janet A. Cannon  
Ms. Joyce W. Richards

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Millie M. Peterson  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. Patricia W. Jones  
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Research Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Walker moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2001. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Elimination of Mandates**

The task force considered proposals to eliminate certain mandates in state law. Mr. Steve Laing, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Utah State Office of Education, explained why the mandates should be eliminated.

**MOTION:** Sen. Gladwell moved to eliminate the requirement to have the State Board of Education and school districts report certain data about high school activities. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Gladwell moved to delete lines 97-100 in "Public School System Reports," if the provisions are covered by general rules of evidence. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dillree moved to accept "State Board of Education Rules" as a committee position. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson and Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Snow moved to eliminate the requirement that the State Board of Education establish rules and minimum standards governing health, safety, and school building design, siting, and accessibility. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dillree moved to adopt "Repeal of Educational Technology Requirements." The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Throckmorton absent for the vote.

Superintendent Laing clarified that although the mandate to prepare student education plans has never been funded, he believes the program is valuable.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dayton moved to eliminate requirements to prepare student education plans and student education/occupation plans. The motion passed with Sen. Julander, Sen. Walker, Rep. Dillree, Ms. Cannon, and Ms. Richards voting in opposition.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dillree moved to repeal the Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Gladwell moved to eliminate the requirement that each local school board implement a program that provides district employees an opportunity to make anonymous suggestions to the board. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dillree moved to repeal a program that matches private funds raised by school districts to enhance educational excellence with state funds. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Gladwell moved to repeal the duty of the State Board of Education to approve career ladder plans and disburse money for approved plans. The motion passed with Sen. Julander voting in opposition and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dayton moved to repeal the school nursing services incentive program, alternative middle school requirements, and the developmental program for an extended school year. The motion passed with Sen. Julander and Ms. Cannon voting in opposition and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Snow moved to repeal the Arts in Elementary Schools pilot program. The motion passed with Sen. Stephenson, Sen. Julander, Rep. Dillree, and Ms. Cannon voting in opposition. Rep. Johnson was absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Gladwell moved to hold "Planning, Design, and Construction of Public School Buildings" for consideration at a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson indicated the chairs would work with staff in combining the proposals into one or more bills for the task force to consider. Rep. Throckmorton invited task force members to notify the chairs or staff of bills they would like to sponsor.

### **3. School Discipline**

Ms. Joanne Ackerman, Vice-principal, Jordan School District, addressed school discipline from teacher and administrative perspectives. She noted there are different guidelines for special education students. She

explained the expulsion policy of the school where she serves. She emphasized that class size has a definite impact, and spoke in favor of being proactive instead of reactive to a student's behavior. She stated it would help for the Legislature to give more support in the area of educational neglect.

Ms. Carol Lear, Attorney, Utah State Office of Education, distributed and reviewed "Statutory Requirements Relating to Student Discipline." She also gave the results of an informal poll of teachers on measures that would help them deal with disruptive students. Teachers listed: 1) smaller class sizes; 2) better training and skill development; 3) more and better-trained counselors; and 4) better laws.

Mr. Steven Peterson, Utah Association of School Superintendents, stated the safe-school policy that was adopted solved many problems and is a great help to educators in dealing with discipline. He recommended keeping qualified people in the schools who are well-trained in the policies.

## **5. Performance-Based Pay for Educators**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Research Analyst, distributed and reviewed "Pay-for-Performance: Key Questions and Lessons from Five Current Models." She stated that career ladder funds can be used for performance-based pay, even though it is not often used in that way. She noted that many states have performance-based pay programs that supplement the traditional salary schedules based on years of experience and education. She reviewed recent pilot programs that structurally change the educator's salary schedule. The pilot programs link salary to educator performance measured: 1) against a set of teaching standards; or 2) by student achievement on tests. She noted that private schools negotiate with teachers, or they adopt salary schedules similar to public schools. Charter schools that are free to adopt their own personnel policies are using performance as a factor in determining salary increases.

## **6. Other Business**

Future meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, November 1, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., and Friday, November 9, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

## **7. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Gladwell and Rep. Dillree absent for the vote. Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

